

for Figure 4, and request that the Examiner indicate the acceptability of this corrected drawing.

The present invention is directed at methods of generating multiple images of a patient using an imaging device. The invention, in its various embodiments, comprises collecting image data for a series of views based upon a plurality of parameter sets. Before each set of image data is collected, a parameter set is retrieved from the plurality of parameters sets. The plurality of parameter sets is loaded into the imaging device prior to the collection of any image data. Also, the image data are not processed until all image data have been collected. The combination of loading parameter sets prior to collection of image data, and delaying processing of image data until after all collecting of image data has been completed provides optimized methods of generating multiple images of a patient.

In the final rejection, the Examiner indicated that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to have entered all scan parameters before performing the scans in order to expedite the scanning process and reduce the patient's time in the bore of the magnet. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and respectfully submit that the Examiner has not considered the step of loading the parameter sets prior to collecting image data in conjunction with the step of processing image data *after all image data has been collected*. None of the references cited by the Examiner include both of these limitations. Indeed, the Hurd reference explicitly teaches away from this method, indicating that "... the acquired MR data is *separately processed* and stored." (Column 3, line 29). Similarly, the Damadian reference teaches away from this method of generating multiple images. For example, at column 8, lines 3 through 5, the reference

indicates that "the acquired data set is ... transformed in the usual fashion and image data ... is generated." Indeed, in the Damadian reference, processing immediately following collection of each image data set is essential to the invention of that reference in order to enable the prediction of future position prior to imaging which is a critical component of the Damadian invention.

None of the remaining references cited by the Examiner include both the limitation of loading all parameter sets prior to the step of collecting image data, and the limitation of delaying processing of all image data until after the collection of all image data is complete. Accordingly, considering this lack of disclosure of these two limitations as well as the teaching away contained in each of the Damadian and Hurd references, the cited references cannot properly be used as a basis for an anticipatory or obviousness type rejection.

Applicants have herein requested amendment to the pending independent claims of the present application to more clearly indicate the ordered relationship between the steps of the methods, particularly the loading and processing steps.


Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter this Amendment and acknowledge that the claims recite patentable subject matter.

If the Examiner believes personal communication would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the attorney of the applicants at the earliest convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants request that you charge Deposit Account No. 23-1925 for any further fees which may be due. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed for this purpose.

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Respectfully submitted by,


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APPENDIX A

19. (Amended) A method of generating multiple images of a patient using an imaging device, comprising the following steps in the order set forth below:

- (a) introducing a contrast material into said patient;
- (b) loading a plurality of parameter sets into said imaging device, each of the plurality containing at least one parameter that corresponds to one of said multiple images;
- (c) retrieving a first parameter set from the plurality of parameter sets;
- (d) collecting first image data of a first view of said patient according to the first parameter set;
- (e) stopping the collecting first image data for a delay period;
- (f) retrieving a second parameter set from the plurality of parameter sets;
- (g) collecting second image data of a second view of said patient according to the second parameter set; and
- (h) processing the first and second image data to produce said multiple images of said patient.

29. (Amended) A method of generating multiple images of a patient using an imaging device, comprising the following steps in the order set forth below:

- (a) introducing a contrast material into said patient;
- (b) loading a plurality of parameter sets into said imaging device, each of the plurality containing at least one parameter that corresponds to one of said

multiple images;

- (c) indexing said imaging device to a first parameter set in the plurality;
- (d) collecting first image data;
- (e) stopping the collecting first image data for a delay period;
- (f) sequentially indexing said imaging device to each parameter set in the plurality, collecting further image data for each parameter set; and
- (g) processing the first and further image data to produce said multiple images of said patient.

35. (Amended) A method of generating multiple images of a patient using an imaging device, comprising the following steps in the order set forth below:

- (a) loading a plurality of parameter sets into said imaging device, each of the plurality containing at least one parameter that corresponds to one of said multiple images;
- (b) sequentially collecting image data of said patient by sequentially advancing through the parameter sets;
- (c) stopping the collecting image data for a delay period between each parameter set; and
- (d) processing the image data to produce said multiple images of said patient.